

to a very special event which will take place in Atlanta this coming Sunday, May 18—the Fifth Annual Lauren's Run.

Lauren's Run is a fantastic kids-only fun run which is held every year at Zoo Atlanta. The purpose of the event is to raise funds for the Lauren Zagoria Pediatric Cancer Research Fellowship at City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, CA. The fellowship assists in the fight against pediatric cancer in all its forms through advanced research and clinical treatments at City of Hope, an institution renowned for the compassionate care it brings to children suffering from life-threatening diseases.

Mr. President, all of us in this body have undoubtedly devoted ourselves at one time or another to worthy causes and humanitarian endeavors. But in my opinion, Lauren's Run is a truly special cause, and this is so for two reasons.

First, because it honors a very special and beautiful little girl named Lauren Zagoria who was diagnosed when she was only 21 months old with neuroblastoma, a rare and fatal form of pediatric cancer. Lauren's parents, Janis and Marvin Zagoria, watched as their precious daughter was transformed not only by the ravages of the disease, but also by the ordeal of radiation treatments, bone marrow biopsies, and surgery. As Janis and Marvin have written about Laura, "She never complained; she never quit; she never stopped loving or trusting those who cared for her. After 14 months of struggling, the disease was just too big for one little girl."

Lauren's Run was borne of that child's tragic and painful struggle. Determined to honor Lauren's life and to sustain her legacy, Janis and Marvin Zagoria began to lay the groundwork for the children's run just 2 months after her death in March 1992. The first Lauren's Run was held in 1993.

I will have the honor of attending the Fifth Annual Lauren's Run on May 18, and I will be presenting an American Hero award to Janis and Marvin Zagoria on that occasion. They are truly two wonderful points of light—people who inspire others in their community to do what is right on behalf of those in need.

Mr. President, the other reason that I believe Lauren's Run is a special cause is because little Lauren Zagoria could have been any child in America today. We owe it to Lauren and to all the children we know and love to do everything in our power to eradicate the scourge of pediatric cancer. At City of Hope, pioneering work is underway to increase the long-term survival rate of children suffering from such illnesses. There is hope indeed that one day we may overcome the tragedy of pediatric cancer—provided that we open our hearts and, yes, our pocketbooks to enable research to discover the cures which are surely within reach.

Mr. President, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the

memory of Lauren Zagoria and the work of two great Americans, Janis and Marvin Zagoria. And I ask that this body recognize the special significance and importance of the Fifth Annual Lauren's Run on May 18 in Atlanta.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, May 12, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,344,444,824,118.40. (Five trillion, three hundred forty-four billion, four hundred forty-four million, eight hundred twenty-four thousand, one hundred eighteen dollars and forty cents)

Five years ago, May 12, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,886,829,000,000. (Three trillion, eight hundred eighty-six billion, eight hundred twenty-nine million)

Ten years ago, May 12, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,271,664,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred seventy-one billion, six hundred sixty-four million)

Fifteen years ago, May 12, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,060,830,000,000. (One trillion, sixty billion, eight hundred thirty million)

Twenty-five years ago, May 12, 1972, the federal debt stood at \$427,349,000,000. (Four hundred twenty-seven billion, three hundred forty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,917,095,824,118.40 (Four trillion, nine hundred seventeen billion, ninety-five million, eight hundred twenty-four thousand, one hundred eighteen dollars and forty cents) during the past 25 years.

NET DAYS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, last year Massachusetts was ranked 48th in the Nation in networked classrooms. Only 30 percent—700 out of our more than 2,400 schools—had adequate computer technology and wiring. In a State with such a critical mass of knowledge-based industries requiring a highly-trained, highly skilled work force, this was unacceptable.

So in May 1996, we created the MassNetworks Educational Partnership as a nonprofit collaborative effort to assist our schools in becoming wired to the Internet, and to coordinate what are now called NetDays not only in Massachusetts but all across the country.

We began this effort, to be sure, with an advantage over most other States. Our information technology industries have grown rapidly in recent years. We enjoy strong labor unions and highly dedicated teachers, principals and superintendents, which have combined their expertise to allow us to accomplish much in a brief amount of time.

For our two State NetDays since last May, we have had more than 14,000 volunteers help wire over 800 additional schools in Massachusetts. These volunteers, aided by 15 million dollars' worth of donated and discounted goods, serv-

ices, and technical support, already have had an enormous impact on the future of Massachusetts. We have truly become a model to the Nation.

However, this effort is not limited to these two NetDays, and we are far from finished. All across the State, parents, children, educators, labor leaders, businesspeople, public servants, and others who care so deeply about education will be continuing to work together to wire more schools, train more teachers and install more hardware throughout the rest of the school year and summer.

The investment we are making will continue to pay off in better results in our schools—students with sharper skills, improved grades, lower absenteeism, improved grades, reduced drop-out rates, and improved standards of living when they enter the work force. Studies show that in the year 2000, 70 percent all new jobs will require the type of high-technology skills that only 20 percent of our work force currently possess. If we are to succeed in our endeavor, we must prepare our children with the knowledge they need to be competitive in the next century.

Toward that end, I will work to help Massachusetts be the first State in the Nation to meet President Clinton's goal of wiring all of America's schools to the Internet by the year 2000.

The Internet is the ticket to the information superhighway. The effort taking place in Massachusetts is putting this incredible resource within reach of all students. I strongly commend all those involved.

Education is one of the best investments we can make in the future of this State, and wiring students to the Internet is one of the wisest forms our investment can take. The Internet is the blackboard of the 21st century, and we should be prepared to use it to the fullest of our capability. The Internet is the newest world of information, and the newest frontier to conquer. Much like the shot heard around the world, our dedication to our students must be heard all over the globe.

Ultimately, the strength of this effort comes not from computers and wire, but from our ability to help schools teach and help students learn in new ways. I am confident that we will make the most of the tremendous opportunity that is at hand.

FAMILY CHILD CARE APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President last Friday, May 9, was "Family Child Care Provider Appreciation Day" in Utah and perhaps in other States as well. It is fitting to pay tribute to family-based child care providers who are an essential component of our child care system, both in Utah and throughout the United States.

Family Child Care Providers are self-employed business people caring for up to six children at a time in their own homes for as much as 50 hours per